

## Message Text

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47

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R 201208Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6732

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3054

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON FORD-SADAT MEETING

1. SUMMARY: WASHINGTON-BASED ISRAELI CORRESPONDENTS MAY 20 REPORT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES STATING THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON FINAL PEACE BORDER IN HIS JUNE 1 MEETING WITH SADAT. WHILE BLITZER (JERUSALEM POST) WRITES THAT PRESIDENT FORD IS EXPECTED TO TELL SADAT THAT BORDER MUST BE NEGOTIATED WITH ISRAEL, MARGALIT (HAARETZ) AND SEGEV (MAARIV) CITE THIS AS ISRAELI PREFERENCE. SEGEV REPORTS THAT DATE OF GENEVA CONFERENCE CONTINGENT ON OUTCOME OF FORD TALKS WITH SADAT AND RABIN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN FRONT PAGE STORY HEADLINED "FORD TO TELL SADAT: NEGOTIATE YOUR BORDERS," JERUSALEM POST CARRIES BLITZER REPORT THAT "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES (IN WASHINGTON) DO NOT EXPECT PRESIDENT FORD TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS TO PRESIDENT SADAT AT THEIR JUNE 1 MEETING IN SALZBURG ABOUT A TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 LINES." PRESIDENT FORD, BLITZER CONTINUED, "IS EXPECTED TO TELL SADAT THAT

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THOSE LINES WILL HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN ISRAEL

AND EGYPT."

3. WASHINGTON SOURCES, ACCORDING TO BLITZER, SAID THAT THE US IS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN ITS STATUS AS CHIEF MEDIATOR--AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. BLITZER CITES THAT IN RECENT STATEMENTS, PRESIDENT FORD HAS DECLARED THAT US WILL NOT STAND FOR ANY STALEMATES IN MIDDLE EAST, AND FINAL US POSITION WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER RABIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

4. MARGALIT, IN HAARETZ, CITING US DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL NOT RPT NOT ANSWER SADAT'S QUESTION WHETHER US IS PREPARED TO CONTENT ITSELF WITH PROTECTING ISRAEL'S 1967 BORDERS. PRESIDENT FORD, WRITES MARGALIT, WILL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN THAT US HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ITS REASSESSMENT. ISRAELIS, MARGALIT REPORTS, "WOULD OF COURSE PREFER HIM TO ANSWER THAT BORDERS ARE A MATTER TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT."

5. MEANWHILE, MARGALIT ADDS, "OTHERS ARE AWARE THAT A TENDENCY IS SHAPING UP IN THE ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO SLIGHTLY ADJUSTED 1967 LINES AND TO PRESSURE ISRAEL FOR THIS, BUT THERE IS NO FINAL DECISION."

6. VIRTUALLY SAME STORY AS IN HAARETZ ALSO CARRIED IN MAARIV, FILED BY SEGEV, WITH ADDITIONAL COMMENT THAT "OFFICIALLY THE US OPERATES WITHIN THE TERMS OF UN RESOLUTION 242, BUT IT ACCEPTS THE ISRAELI READING OF 'TERRITORIES' RATHER THAN 'THE TERRITORIES', AS INDICATED IN THE ROGERS PLAN." SEGEV ADDS, "THE US ALSO CONCEDES THAT THERE ARE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN REYPECT TO SHARM-EL-SHEIKH AND JERUSALEM AND DOES NOT DEMAND AN 'AUTOMATIC ISRAELIS WITHDRAWAL' FROM THESE POINTS.'

7. ON GENEVA, SEGEV REPORTS WASHINGTON SOURCES UNCLASSIFIED

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SAYING THAT DATE FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE "WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER THERE ARE CHANCES OF AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT WHICH SHOULD BE APPARENT AFTER THE FORD-SADAT AND FORD-RABIN MEETINGS, AND WILL BE SET ONLY AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT."  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, XF, US, IS, (FORD, GERALD R), (SADAT, ANWAR)  
**To:** STATE  
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